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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,854	01/21/2004	Hiroyuki Fujita	148047NM	3063
45436	7590	10/30/2006	EXAMINER	
THE SMALL PATENT LAW GROUP LLP 611 OLIVE STREET, SUITE 1611 ST. LOUIS, MO 63101			SHRIVASTAV, BRIJ B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

3K

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/761,854	FUJITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brij B. Shrivastav	2859	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for Continued Examination (RCE) dated August 21, 2006 has been received and entered. The pending claims in the application are 1-21, which are not amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doty (US 5,929,639).

As regards to claim 1, Doty teaches a coil arrangement for a medical imaging system, including a plurality of coil elements for a medical imaging system (figure 3a, having two coil assemblies, each one having three coil elements with a with two cross-over portions which are generally centered between each of the coil plurality of coil elements (figure 3a, coil shown in the figure has many coil elements, where each element has a crossover portion joining its adjacent element (column 1, lines 9-14 and 38-54, column 5 and 6, lines 60-67 and 1-59).

As regards to claims 12 and 20, Doty teaches a coil array and a method for medical imaging system, including a first coil array portion having a plurality of coil elements for a medical imaging system (figure 3a; column 1, lines 9-67); and a second coil array portion having a multi-lobe saddle train with at least one lobe between two

other lobes, the multi-lobe saddle train comprising a plurality of crossover portions and wherein each crossover portion is provided between each adjacent lobe of the multi-lobe saddle train (figure 3a and 3b; column 1, lines 9-14 and 38-54, column 5 and 6, lines 60-67 and 1-59).

As regards to claims 2-11, 13-19 and 21, Doty further teaches medical imaging system having surface coil loops with crossovers having overlapping and non-overlapping sections (column 1, lines 9-14 and 38-54; columns 5-7), and for phase encoding (column 1, lines 9-14 and 38-54).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brij B. Shrivastav whose telephone number is 571-272-2250. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 AM to 4 PM.

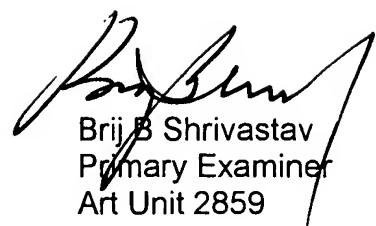
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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October 17, 2006



Brij B Shrivastav
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2859